



The Gator Gazette

Welcome to Glenhope Elementary! Wynette Griffin, Ed. D

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Glenhope Elementary School! We are thrilled that you are now a part of a wonderful community that has high expectations for students and teachers, and also is very supportive of our school.

Some of the unique aspects of life at Glenhope include the following:

We are the only elementary school in the district to have a bell choir in addition to our vocal program.

Students in grades four and five are invited to participate

in Student Council and Safety Patrol.

Glenhope was honored in 2005 as a Texas Business and Education Coalition Honor Roll School, one of only 86 in the state.

Glenhope has been featured in both Texas Monthly and D Magazine as one of the top schools in the Dallas Fort Worth area.

Glenhope has been a recognized or exemplary campus each year.

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Welcome to the PTA! Denise Procaccino, PTA President 2008–09

On behalf of the Glenhope PTA, I would like to welcome you all to Glenhope Elementary School! We're glad that you're here. There are many activities available for you and your children here at the school, but I am going to focus on those that the PTA sponsors. Throughout the year, your kids will

be presented with numerous Children's Programs during the school day. Parents are always welcome to attend these entertaining programs. Some of the programs we've produced in the past include the Rhinestone Ropers, the Chinese Acrobats and the Jumpin' Jammers. Some of the pro-

grams are educational while others allow children access to the arts that they might not otherwise experience.

In addition to Children's Programs, the PTA sponsors numerous events throughout the year. This year, look for excitement at our Fall

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Welcome to Glenhope

© We hope you enjoy this special edition of the Glenhope Gator Gazette. The Gazette is published by our PTA every other month. In it, find news from Teachers, Staff, the PTA and other groups. In each issue look for calendars and other items to help keep you informed.

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We are fortunate to have a community that values education and works with us to support the efforts of our staff. Over the past six years, our parents have contributed an average of approximately \$10,000 per year to our Greenback fundraising drive. This allows our school to supplement the budgetary efforts of the district and provide additional classroom resources for the benefit of our students and staff. Parents also

contribute to the school through their volunteer efforts in a variety of ways.

I have been the principal of Glenhope for eight years, and Anne Ricci has been the assistant principal for twelve years. We have very little staff turnover and most of our teachers have been at the school longer than five years, providing experience and stability for our students.

We look forward to an exciting and productive year

with your child, and we also welcome the opportunity to work with you in a partnership that will benefit your child and our Glenhope community.

Sincerely,

Wynette Griffin, Ed.D.
Principal



...from the PTA...continued from page 1

Festival in October; Holiday Workshop and Breakfast; a winter social at the school (date to be announced); and Gator Games in the spring—our version of Field Day.

In addition to all of the programs and events, the PTA provides both faculty and former student scholarships and special funding for equipment and curricula that the school or district might not otherwise be able to provide. The PTA has, in the past, provided safety padding for the gym, playground equipment, microscopes for the science lab and various supplies for the nurses office including a defibrillator!

As you can see, we're a pretty busy bunch. It takes many dedicated moms, dads, grandparents and special folks to keep the PTA running smoothly. If you are looking for a fun way to get involved, please consider joining the

PTA and getting involved with an event committee. Turn to page 7 and 8 of this newsletter for PTA and other volunteer opportunities available. Page 9 is the signup page. It is a great way to meet some of the folks here at the school.

If you join the PTA, you will receive a copy of the Gator Guide—our student directory. You can get as many directories as you'd like by "joining" as many times as you'd like. The PTA membership card also affords you other opportunities such as discounts for on-line retailers. We'd love to have you!

If you would like to talk to someone about PTA, please don't hesitate to call me at (817) 442-8572. Again, welcome to Glenhope!

Did You Know?

Glenhope Elementary's school colors are blue and green and although our mascot is a gator, you might see images of trains at Glenhope. This is because Glenhope was originally the name of a "siding" on the railroad track between the neighboring towns of Bransford and Grapevine. A siding is a short section of railroad track connected by switches with a main track. The Glenhope siding did not have a section house or any buildings, and nothing but the memory of the Glenhope siding remains today.



Activities, Events and Happenings At Glenhope

During The School Day...

Starting the School Day: Students arriving to school by car will pull up along the driveway by the front of the school to be dropped-off. In order to keep the line moving, please make sure your children are ready to exit the car when you pull up. Someone will be waiting there on the curb to help them exit. Please do not drop your kids off in the teachers' parking lot. There are very limited parking spaces and it creates problems when parents are driving in and out of this lot in the mornings.

If you choose to walk into the building with your kids, please park in the grass lot across from the school or parallel park on the street. Use the crosswalks to access the school. We've had so many "near-misses" when parents and students try to cross in the middle of the street and

not at the crosswalk that we urge you to follow these rules.

The bell rings at 7:50 a.m. and children are considered tardy at 8:00 a.m.

Cafeteria: Each grade level eats with their grade level at tables assigned to their class. Typically, there will be two grade levels in the cafeteria at one time with some overlap between the grade before and the grade after. Kindergarten students are the first to arrive for lunch, and after about 10 minutes, first grade students arrive for their lunch.

Students are welcome to bring lunch from home, or they can purchase food and/or drinks/snacks at the cafeteria. Students can pay with cash, but they are encouraged to make deposits to their accounts either by cash or check. Students then enter a code that debits their ac-

count for purchases. When student funds begin running low, the cafeteria staff will stamp their hand with a reminder that additional money needs to be deposited.

Credit card payments can also be made for cafeteria accounts on line at <http://gcisd-k12.org/nutrition/payonline.html>.

Funds that have been deposited to an account will be rolled forward to the next year if not used by the end of the school year.

At the beginning of the year, kindergarten teachers take the students into the cafeteria and walk through the process of selecting lunches, carrying it to their tables, and sitting down for lunch. They will typically rehearse for at least a couple of days prior to the students actually beginning to eat lunch in the

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Glenhope Dad's Club by Andy Pitts, Dad's Club President 2008—2009

Welcome to Glenhope Dad's Club! The Glenhope Dad's Club is a group of dedicated fathers who choose to actively participate in the growth and development of their children and their community. Our primary focus is on building healthy relationships and maintaining the best possible learning environment for our children.

Projects

Our projects come from suggestions and wish lists requested by the teachers, staff, PTA, and our children.

Membership

Membership is open to dads of all the children enrolled at Glenhope Elementary School. We welcome all forms of support.

Meetings

The Glenhope Dad's Club generally meets on the second Monday of each month.

Fund Raisers & Events

Sock Hop

Spaghetti Dinner at Open House

Gator Gallop

Holiday Parade Float

Family Night

Student Scholarships for Graduating Seniors

Lakes of Williamsburg Cookout

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Andy Pitts.

and also visit the website: www.glenhopedads.com.

Events, Activities & Happenings Around Glenhope (continued from p.3)

cafeteria so that they are familiar with the routines and expectations. If your child indicates any anxiety about lunch, his/her teacher will want to know so that we can address the issue with them specifically.

Parents are welcome to come eat lunch with their child. You may bring a lunch for them, or choose something from the cafeteria. Either way, there are designated areas at the back of the cafeteria for parents who come to eat with their kids.

Birthdays: Children celebrating a birthday at school may not pass out any snacks in the cafeteria at all during the time meals are served. Any treats must be individually wrapped and will be passed out at the end of the day for children to take home.



Birthday invitations may not be given out at school unless all children in a classroom are invited to the party. If everyone is not invited, invitations must be mailed.

At the End of the Day: Kindergarten is dismissed at 2:15 p.m. (11:30 a.m. during the first week of school), while 1st through 5th grade is dismissed at 3:00 p.m. Again, you may walk in to pick up your child, following the guidelines listed above for drop-off. If you choose to drive through the carpool line, you will be given a bright colored page on which to write your child's name (last name first, first name last) so that you can display it to the teachers working the carpool line. Children will line up on the curb alphabetically (kindergarteners line

up with their class). The line forms along the right curb. Please keep to the right as you approach the circle, as school buses will be exiting the building on the left side of the driveway; in other words, the driveway is two-way during the afternoon pickup. Please pull up as far as you can in order to keep the line moving smoothly. As you pull away, please do so very carefully in case someone is approaching from your left side. Do not park in the driveway area during drop-off and pick-up as traffic can be hazardous during these times. When you are in line, take care not to block the driveway to the grass parking lot.

Other Comings and Goings: If you need to pick up your child during the school day for a doctor's appointment, etc., you must sign them out in the office first. Upon return, the child must have a note from the doctor to give to the office. Please refer to the district policy for more information on excused absences.

There are different times during the year in which school is dismissed early - those will be communicated to you when applicable. In general, kindergarten will dismiss 15 minutes prior to the older students. They will line up near the gator marquee, and kindergarten parents can move ahead, forming a second carline to pick them up.

KidzU: GCISD operates a before and after school childcare program for students in grades kindergarten through 5th. District employees operate this program, and care is available from 6:30 a.m. until school begins, and after school until 6:30 p.m. Registration information is available through the front office or by speaking with the KidzU director

on-site.

Events

Meet the Teacher: Class lists are posted the weekday before school starts, and later that afternoon we hold a meet the teacher event. This year, Meet the Teacher will be on **Friday evening, August 22nd from 5—6 p.m.** Students and parents are welcome to drop by and introduce themselves, familiarize themselves with their room and how to get there from drop off points, learn where different locations are in the school, and leave their school supplies if they have purchased them. Typically, current students who have ordered school packs the previous spring will find them in their classrooms ready for distribution. Parents, siblings and other family members are welcome to attend this event, and there is no expectation for students to stay for the entire time. It is definitely just an opportunity to meet and have some exposure to a new setting.

Curriculum nights: These are held several days after school starts, in the evening and usually on different days or times for different grade levels. This is a **parent only** event because teachers come prepared to share information that they have already shared with students such as expectations for behavior and work standards, curriculum highlights and other important information about the grade level and classroom. Some grade levels combine and have an all-grade level meeting, while many grades meet in



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Events, Activities & Happenings Around Glenhope (continued from p.4)

the individual classrooms. This is a critical meeting for parents, and we encourage everyone to attend.

Greenback Night: The parents at Glenhope voiced a strong feeling several years ago that they did not want to participate in traditional fund raising efforts for the school. Their preference was instead to contribute directly to the school. For the last 6 years, parents have donated an average of approximately \$10,000 per year to the school for classroom use. This opportunity happens early in the year during the week when curriculum nights are held.

Classroom Parties: Your child's class will have two parties per year: Winter Holiday and Valentine's Day. Your room parents will coordinate these activities. Grade levels work together to decide as a grade level policies and gift or book exchanges. Parents are always welcome at the class parties, however, due to very limited space siblings are not allowed. Child-care is provided by KidzU staff and volunteers.

Halloween: Students at Glenhope *do not* wear costumes for Halloween, and we do not have parties to celebrate. Typically, though, Halloween will fall during Red Ribbon Week and fun "theme" days will be planned. Some of the crazy days we have celebrated during previous Red Ribbon Weeks include pajama day, crazy hat day, backwards dressing day, twin day, and mixed-up dressing day. The school counselor works with students to choose themes for each year's Red Ribbon Week.

Sock Hop: This is an annual event hosted by our Dad's Club. Students dress in poodle skirts, blue jeans and leather jackets or other period attire for the school day and then return in

the evening for a fun time together with their families. As with all evening events, the expectation is that you will attend with your child. If you aren't able to, they should be brought and supervised by another parent, as school staff is not on duty to supervise students that evening. A DJ spins "oldies" in the gym and snacks are available for purchase.



Fall Festival: This is an afternoon event that is sponsored by PTA. Students participate in games and other activities with their families. Again, we expect and encourage parents and other family members to attend.

Holiday Breakfast & Workshop: Sponsored by our PTA, this is an opportunity for families to eat breakfast together, take a picture with Santa, and work on some fun craft items.

Heritage Day: Held the day we dismiss for the Thanksgiving break, students are encouraged to learn more about their families and their heritage. Many grade levels have students write letters to grandparents, aunts or uncles in order to share information about the family history. Family members, especially older family members, are invited to come to classrooms for a visit in order to share some of those memories. Often, the PTA will sponsor a special performance by a story teller or other entertainer that ties into the theme selected for that year's Heritage Day.



Veteran's Day: Our music teacher organizes a program of patriotic music and appropriate dialogue to honor veterans. Students are also asked

to submit names of family members who have served in the armed forces for a "wall of honor" that is created specifically for this event.

Winter PTA Social: An event sponsored by our PTA, this is another family evening event designed to be a diversion from the long winter season. A variety of activities are typically available, including a DJ and inflatable play structures.

Open House: An annual opportunity for students to showcase their achievements for parents and family members. Siblings and parents are invited to attend and visit classrooms to see products that students have created through the year. Our Dad's Club typically hosts a Spaghetti Dinner to begin the Open House which provides families an opportunity to support the Dad's Club and eat dinner together before participating in Open House activities.

Volunteer Brunch: Each year the Glenhope staff sponsors a brunch to say thank you to volunteers who have donated many hours of their time to support our efforts throughout the year.

Gator Games: A day of events designed to be a celebration of the year as well as an opportunity for students to work together while completing fun, creative and non-competitive events. Parents and siblings are welcome to attend and cheer on their student and his or her classmates.

PTA Meetings: Although exact dates are forthcoming, the PTA will hold several meetings throughout the school year in conjunction with a program or social. This year's meetings will be held in September,

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Events, Activities & Happenings Around Glenhope (continued from p.5)

January, March and May. Watch for a complete calendar this fall. KidzU staff provides childcare free of charge during the meeting.

Children's Programs: Throughout the year, our PTA sponsors a variety of special programs that are presented during the school day. These are designed to provide exposure to a variety of enrichment opportunities. Examples of special programs that have been offered in the past include Chinese Acrobats, Rhinestone Ropers, Tin Roof Tango, and Kidprov.

Summer Programs: GCISD offers a variety of academic classes and "enrichment" camps (cooking, sports, music, arts & crafts, etc.) during the summer months. A catalog is sent home in March or April. Prices are very reasonable compared with other summer programs in the area. KidzU is also available, by itself or before and after camps.

The GCISD Swim Center (located at Pool Road and Highway 26) offers Red Cross swim lessons throughout the year. All levels are taught simultaneously so siblings can take lessons at the same time. Go to http://www.gcisd-k12.org/athletics/swimctr_main.htm for more information.

Other Children's Programs

Sponsored by the PTA:

Arts & Reflections Contest—PTA Sponsors this annual contest to promote student creativity. Students are encouraged to submit one or many entries in a variety of categories such as photography, literature, musical composition, and graphic art. Each year a theme is announced in the spring so that students can work on their entries during the summer. Typically, entries are due in late October and outside judges are recruited to evaluate the entries. Students with winning entries are sent on to the district contest and can advance to area, state and national levels.

Gator Tales: Each year, students across the state participate in a writing contest called "Rising Star." Students at Glenhope submit written compositions, poems and even drawings to PTA volunteers who secure judges to review the entries for possible submission to the state contest. Student entries that have been submitted by classroom teachers are eligible for inclusion in the Glenhope student magazine, *Gator Tales*.

Destination Imagination: Each year, students can form teams to compete in a creative problem-solving competition called Destination Imagination. Volunteer parents, working with the PTA Chairperson, serve as coaches to the children's teams. Winning teams can advance to district, area and state levels.

Talent Show: Students are encouraged to work with friends or on their own to prepare a three to four minute entry in Glenhope's Talent Show. The show is organized by our music teacher and parent volunteers. Students may sing, play an instrument, write a skit, dance, or perform in other ways. Auditions are held in early spring.

Some Classroom Volunteer Opportunities (See page 7 for the complete listing)

Literacy Moms (and Dads too!): Parents in grades kindergarten and first grade are enlisted to help students during reading rotations. Parents who volunteer for this job will receive training prior to working with students. Typical tasks include moving through the classroom and helping students with tasks while the teacher works with small reading groups.

Tutors: Various grade levels request tutors to help specific students, typically in the area of reading and math. Training can be provided and scheduled times can be very flexible to

meet the needs of students and volunteers.

Mentors: Mentors are needed for students who may need extra support in order to be successful in school. Often, they benefit from additional "TLC" from a caring adult. The amount of time needed varies by student, and often mentors can have a life-changing



impact on students.

Volunteer Policy

Anyone volunteering in any capacity (classroom, field trips, events, etc.) must complete a Volunteer Background Check supplied by GCISD at registration. Volunteers will not be allowed to help until this form is complete and approved by GCISD administration. A mandatory volunteer orientation will be held in the fall. Anyone who has already completed a background check will not have to update annually unless there is a status change. Once forms are complete, Molly Hasenpflug, in the office, will have a list of approved volunteers in the database. If your name does not appear, please check with the office.

Visitors Policy

Due to GCISD Safety Procedures, anyone visiting the school for any reason must stop by the front office and sign in the computer or check with the receptionist. All visitors, while on campus, must wear a name tag which is generated by the computer during sign-in. Even if you come to have lunch with your child, you must sign in as a visitor.

